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Governor Announces Fuel Cell Partnership

On April 20, Governor Gray Davis joined industry leaders at the Capitol in announcing a fuel cell vehicle partnership that will address issues facing this new automobile technology including development, marketing and infrastructure needs.

"Our long-term goal is very simple: zero emissions in the air – zero, nada, nothing, zip," the Governor said. "To meet that goal, California has teamed with some of the best automotive manufacturers and energy providers in the world to develop an exciting new technology that is both environmentally safe and commercially viable."

The "California Fuel Cell Partnership – Driving For the Future" brings together auto manufacturers DaimlerChrysler and Ford Motor Company, fuel suppliers Arco, Shell and Texaco, fuel cell company Ballard Power Systems, and the state's air and energy agencies.

The partnership aims to demonstrate fuel cell vehicles as a safe, practical, clean alternative to conventional combustion-engine vehicles.

"This partnership is already contributing to our economy and our environment and that is all very good news for California," continued Governor Davis.

Fuel cell vehicles are powered by a fuel cell producing electricity efficiently, silently and without combustion by combining hydrogen fuel and oxygen. The only exhaust from this system is water vapor.



DaimlerChrysler's NECAR and Ford's P2000 fuel cell car (shown above) were featured at the press conference along with a fuel cell-powered bus from Ballard Power Systems. Governor Davis, Secretary Hickox and Resources Secretary Mary Nichols get the inside scoop on fuel cells from DaimlerChrysler Senior VP Ferdinand Panik.

Underground Storage Tank Compliance Hits 97 Percent

Compliance with the State Water Resources Control Board's (SWRCB) Underground Storage Tank (UST) replacement program is at 97 percent, according to a SWRCB survey of the local agencies that issue permits for underground tanks.

Of the 55,345 underground tanks in California, 43,015 tanks have been upgraded or replaced and 10,430 are empty and have either been temporarily or permanently closed. There are currently 1,900 substandard tanks storing product now out of compliance. Enforcement measures are being handled by local agencies.

The December 22, 1998, deadline for replacing, upgrading or removing underground tanks that store petroleum or hazardous substances was set more than 10 years ago by federal regulations.

FROM MY CORNER

Winston H. Hickox, Secretary
for Environmental Protection

This is my first column for your newsletter. Having reviewed past editions, it is my hope that we will be able to continue the excellent quality of content while adding some items of interest to you all.

A beginning in that direction is the creation of a question and answer segment in future newsletters. This segment will publish some of the many e-mail inquiries we receive in the Office of the Secretary, along with our responses. I hope it will be informative for all.

As you may have heard, Governor Davis has charged us with a review of Cal/EPA's organizational structure as part of this year's budget process. We have begun that analysis in each of the Boards, Departments and Offices and the outcome should be of interest to everyone.

In furtherance of that review I have asked that a recent response to Senator John Burton defining Cal/EPA's long and short-term goals be published in its entirety for all to read. I hope this letter will help define where I think the Agency is headed in the next four years.

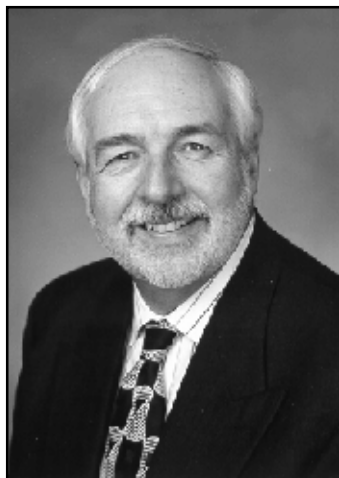
Finally, the best way to describe my personal objectives for the Agency is found in my opening remarks to Senator John Burton from my confirmation hearing on April 14th. I believe these comments, when considered with the reprinted letter (*see special insert*), best define the path I see the Agency taking in the near future.

Again, I am extremely proud to be here. I look forward to meeting many more of you personally. My confirmation comments and goals follow.

Senate Rules Committee Hearing April 14, 1999

Thank you, Senator Sher. Good Morning Mr. Chairman and Members. I am pleased to appear before the Committee today as you consider my confirmation as Secretary for Environmental Protection.

I would like to introduce Becky, my spouse; and Amy, my daughter — who has traveled from Washington D. C. to join me today — and my grandchildren, who remind me every day why this job is so important.



In the three and half months since Governor Davis asked me to join his Cabinet, I have been meeting with Members of both houses — as well as many stakeholders in the environmental, government, agricultural, and business communities. From this dialogue I have gained greater insight into the responsibilities the Governor, and this Committee, is vesting in me, and all employees of Cal/EPA, as guardians of public health and the environment. As Secretary, I commit to fulfilling these responsibilities and to carrying out the Governor's environmental policies. This includes implementing California's stringent environmental standards — resolutely and equitably.

Today's environmental issues involve complex interactions — both in the scientific sense and in activities and choices we pursue as individuals, communities, and businesses. Challenges — such as non-point air and water pollution, pesticides, and waste reduction — demand integrated strategies and new ways of doing business. Informing and supporting the Governor in his decision to phase-out MTBE proved to be an invaluable lesson. I will apply this to future challenges confronted by Cal/EPA.

Our policies and decisions will be based on sound science, as we address the significant risks affecting the Golden State's people, disparate communities, and precious natural resources. I intend to focus on outcomes rather than overly bureaucratic processes.

With the cooperation and collaboration of the Legislature and officials throughout government, I also intend to build new coalitions to address California's environmental challenges.

From My Corner continued on page 3

ENVIRONMENT

Environment is published quarterly by the California Environmental Protection Agency at 555 Capitol Mall, Suite 525, Sacramento, CA 95814.

Jim Spagnole, Director of Communications

Cal/EPA includes the Air Resources Board, Integrated Waste Management Board, State Water Resources Control Board, Department of Pesticide Regulation, Department of Toxic Substances Control, and the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment

Comments, suggestions or address changes can be made via fax at (916) 445-5563 or e-mail at cepacomm@calepa.ca.gov.

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From My Corner continued

I have outlined for this Committee my goals for Cal/EPA. Summarizing, I am pursuing several short-term objectives. These include:

- Establishing a new management team
- Reviewing the structure, delivery, and funding of environmental programs
- Formulating new policy direction for Cal/EPA
- Partnering with other Agencies to craft administrative solutions, and
- Implementing the Governor's MTBE decision.

Throughout my tenure as Secretary, I commit to:

- Vigorously, uniformly enforce our environmental laws
- Develop an integrated, annual environmental plan
- Apply sound science to our decisions, and
- Serve as an advocate for the environment.

The last point is especially important to me. Among the significant, long-lasting effects I can have as Secretary is to create a strong advocacy role as spokesperson for California's environment. As Secretary, I will pursue all opportunities to do so.

I commit to work with each of you to improve and sustain California's spectacular natural resources and protect our air, water and public health.



LA Visitors Can Now Rent EVs

Article from the San Francisco Examiner-Chronicle, April 18, 1999

For Travelers who want to zoom around Los Angeles without contributing to the notorious smog, Budget Rent a Car offers electric cars from its Los Angeles International Airport counter, and was to begin renting natural-gas-powered vehicles last week.

Budget plans to roll out the environmentally-friendly cars around California, expanding the program beyond the state early next year.

Rates start at \$39.95 a day. Recharging is free at more than 300 public car-charging stations around Southern California, and Budget won't charge extra if the car is returned with an empty battery.

AIR RESOURCES BOARD

Lloyd Appointed New ARB Chair

Governor Davis has appointed Alan C. Lloyd, Ph.D., a chemist and alternative-fuels expert, as Chairman of the Air Resources Board. Dr. Lloyd, 57, was chief scientist at the South Coast Air Quality Management District from 1988 to 1996, and served most recently as Executive Director of the Energy and Environmental Center in Reno, Nevada. Dr. Lloyd expects to place a strong emphasis on zero and near-zero emission technologies during his tenure.



*ARB welcomes new chair
Alan C. Lloyd, Ph.D.*

ARB Gets Out the Facts on Clean Watercraft



On the heels of first-ever emissions standards for watercraft, approved in December 1998, ARB has started an outreach campaign titled "Cleaner Watercraft — Get the Facts." The effort is aimed at educating consumers and watercraft dealers about what impact the new standards will have on new and used equipment when new regulations begin in 2001. The ARB has contacted dealers and consumers at boat shows around the state, and has sent information to television, radio, newspapers and magazines. "What Every Boat Owner Should Know," a flyer on the features and benefits of ARB's cleaner marine engines regulation, is available to watercraft dealers. For more information, contact ARB at 1-800-END-SMOG.

INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD

Proactive Solid Waste Management for the 21st Century

Government agencies are often accused of reacting to problems instead of anticipating issues and addressing them before they become a crisis. In California, however, the state's Integrated Waste Management Board (IWMB) is looking ahead. The IWMB has embarked on an innovative process to address the solid waste management issues that will affect California in the 21st century.

In January at a one-day IWMB-sponsored conference in Southern California, more than 130 stakeholders identified some 400 solid waste issues and trends. Among the trends that emerged were the increasing size, age and cultural diversity of the population, which is expected to bring about such changes as possible increases in the amount of waste generated. It was also identified that increased consolidation of the waste industry could impact waste reduction and recycling programs.

In March, the IWMB held the second stakeholder event, a Future Search Conference in Sacramento to take the issues and trends identified in the first conference and determine scenarios that would be desired outcomes in the next 10 to 15 years. The scenarios included increasing the emphasis on source reduction and reuse and developing sustainable markets for recycled materials.

The IWMB board members will now work to analyze and formulate the specific proposals for managing the 21st century's solid waste. These proposals will more than likely include a redirection of IWMB resources so that it can play a significant role at the key trigger points in the process. In addition, other proposals may require the support of Governor Gray Davis and the State Legislature. The IWMB hopes to approve specific proposals by July 1999.

DEPARTMENT OF PESTICIDE REGULATION

New Regs Would Exempt Minimum-Risk Pesticides From Registration

The Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) is making it easier to market some common household products to control pests. DPR has proposed regulations that will remove registration requirements for 40 minimum-risk pesticides, such as garlic, peppermint, rosemary, corn oil, cedar chips, citronella and castor oil (*see chart on page 5*). All the substances have been evaluated for safety by DPR scientists and already have been exempted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Many natural substances have long been recognized for their insect-controlling properties. Exempting registration requirements on such substances will save time and expense for manufacturers. DPR's registration process requires payment of fees and submission of specific studies before products can be advertised and sold for pest control in California.



The new Cal/EPA headquarters is rapidly taking shape. The move-in date for the 25-story building is scheduled for August 2000.

Labels for these products also must carry the name and percentage of each active ingredient and the name of inert ingredients. Such products may only contain inerts classified as minimum risk by U.S. EPA. The list includes gelatin, honey and sawdust. The products also cannot make claims to control microorganisms that pose a threat to human health.

DPR also plans to exempt four other categories of pesticides: certain natural cedar products; pheromones labeled for use in traps, or pheromone traps themselves; some preservatives, including embalming fluid; and foods intended to attract pests that contain no chemical or biological toxicants.

DPR will maintain its oversight of all exempted pesticides, and will require manufacturers to report any adverse effects from use of products so DPR can reassess exemptions if necessary.

Proposed for Exemption from Registration as Pesticides

Products containing these minimum-risk substances are proposed for exemption from registration, with requirements that labels list active and inert ingredients:

Castor oil	Corn oil	Geranium	Rosemary	Soybean oil
Cinnamon	Cottonseed oil	Linseed oil	Sesame (ground plant)	Thyme
Citronella	Dried blood	Mint	Sesame oil	Zinc metal strips
Citronella oil	Garlic	Peppermint	Sodium chloride (common salt)	
Cloves	Geraniol	Putrescent whole egg solids		

The pesticides listed below are proposed for exemption with requirements that labels list ingredients and have language requiring the use of eye and skin protection if the product has more than 8.5 percent active ingredient:

Cedar oil	Corn gluten meal	Malic acid	2-Phenethyl propionate	Thyme oil
Cinnamon oil	Eugenol	Lemongrass oil	Potassium sorbate	White pepper
Citric acid	Garlic oil	Mint oil	Rosemary oil	
Clove oil	Lauryl sulfate	Peppermint oil	Sodium lauryl sulfate	

The four categories of substances below would be exempted, some with labeling or other requirements:

Natural cedar products	Certain preservatives, including embalming fluid
Certain pheromones labeled for use in traps	Foods intended to attract pests that contain no chemical or biological toxicants
Pheromone traps (as defined in the regulations)	

OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH HAZARD ASSESSMENT

OEHHA Sets Public Health Goal for MTBE

Methyl tertiary-butyl ether (MTBE) is a gasoline additive used to reduce air pollution, but also causes significant problems when it enters ground or surface waters as a result of spills, leakage or the use of gasoline-powered water craft. Low levels of MTBE contamination in drinking water result in objectionable taste and odor, and there are concerns that exposure to MTBE may also result in adverse health effects, including cancer. The Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) has evaluated the health effects of MTBE, and prepared a document in which a drinking water Public Health Goal level for MTBE is recommended at 13 ppb. The document is available on our website at www.oehha.ca.gov.

Documentation was also prepared to support the consideration of MTBE by the Carcinogen and Developmental Reproductive Toxicity Identification Committees for Proposition 65. OEHHA reviewed a major report on MTBE health and environmental effects, and alternatives to its use prepared by the University of California. After carefully considering the evidence, including a recently published re-evaluation of one of the key studies, OEHHA and the UC report agree that human exposure to MTBE may present a cancer hazard. Various proposals on how to limit environmental contamination with MTBE, and resultant human exposure, are currently being considered by the State Legislature.

OEHHA Implements the Registered Environmental Assessor II Program

Regulations for the Registered Environmental Assessor II (REA II) program were recently approved by the Office of Administrative Law. This approval allows the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) to begin implementation of the REA II program and to accept applications for the registration.

An REA II is an environmental professional whose education, experience and qualifications in both professional-level environmental and site mitigation work qualify for registration by the State of California. Based upon careful study of a site, an REA II issues hazardous substance and hazardous waste site cleanup opinions which describe whether contamination is present, the type of work needed to reduce the risk for that contamination, and whether the work has been completed. An REA II is required to sign and include their REA II registration number on any reports of hazardous substance or hazardous waste site cleanup opinions submitted. Registration as an REA II authorizes an individual to perform the work of an REA I as well.

Additional information about the program, including a copy of the new regulations and the application for registration, can be found on the REA web site at: www.CALREA.com

Treatment Ponds Proposed for Mexican Border Wastewater Plant

In February, the U.S. International Boundary and Water Commission and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency released a study identifying treatment ponds as the preferred secondary treatment method for the International Wastewater Treatment Plant (IWTP) in south San Diego County near the U.S./Mexico border. The public comment period for the supplemental environmental impact report for the ponds ended in mid-April. The plant, which opened in 1997, and the South Bay Ocean Outfall which became operational late last year are the result of a decade of cooperation between state and federal governments on both sides of the border. Staff from the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board and the SWRCB have been key players in the multi-agency effort to construct and permit the treatment facility and ocean outfall.

Secondary treatment would enable the plant to produce treated wastewater that meets both federal Clean Water Act and California Ocean Plan standards. The ponds would allow effluent to go through secondary treatment before it is discharged off shore into the ocean through the South Bay Ocean Outfall.

With international cooperation, the wastewater treatment plant was constructed to solve the problem of sewage flows that exceeded the capacity of the City of Tijuana's sewage system. When that system reaches capacity, raw sewage flows into the Tijuana River, crosses the international border and empties into the Pacific Ocean off the coast of San Diego. The IWTP began operation in 1997 with advanced primary treatment. Its effluent does not entirely meet wastewater standards. Secondary treatment will bring the wastewater into compliance with discharge permits.

However, neighboring communities have expressed concerns about potential negative impacts of sewage treatment ponds, including odors, mosquito breeding and aesthetic considerations.

The ponds will have a capacity to treat 25 million gallons of wastewater each day, the capacity of the IWTP. The outfall is a 3.5-mile tunnel that carries treated sewage from the IWTP into the Pacific Ocean. There, the effluent is mixed with seawater in a diffusion apparatus. The outfall has a capacity to handle 174 million gallons per day.

More SWRCB news on page 7

DEPARTMENT OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL

Southern California School Sites Unit Created

Citing the state's need to focus greater resources and oversight on environmental assessments of hazardous material and cleanup at school sites in Los Angeles County, the California Environmental Protection Agency's Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) Director Ed Lowry announced the formation of a seven-member School Sites Unit within the DTSC's Southern California Site Mitigation Program.

The seven-member unit, consisting of a Hazardous Substances Scientist as Supervisor, three Hazardous Substances Engineers and three Hazardous Substances Scientists, was formed to oversee environmental assessments and investigations at existing and new school sites in Los Angeles County. In addition, support from other DTSC programs such as Public Participation and Toxicology will also be augmented to assist in these important projects.

"This new unit consists of technical staffers and engineers who have years of professional and practical experience in working at hazardous waste sites. Harnessing these resources will enable DTSC to carry out the vital work of analyzing information submitted by the Los Angeles Unified School District during their environmental assessments and investigations at existing and proposed school sites," said Lowry. "The unit will also work on other sites where they have signed Voluntary Cleanup Agreements," he added.

Y2K No Excuse for Illegal Wastewater Releases

In an effort to head off major problems with California's wastewater treatment systems in the year 2000, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), through a variety of means, is strongly urging wastewater dischargers and others in the industry to check their electronic devices and computer systems. At the heart of the problem are embedded microchips that are not compliant with the date change from December 31, 1999 to January 1, 2000 — in short, the Year 2000 (Y2K) "bug."

Some of the devices in question include timers, valves, monitoring equipment, meters and switches in many settings, including devices that treat wastewater. If the chip is "non-compliant," it may cause the device it controls to quit working or work improperly on the first day in the year 2000. A wide variety of unpermitted waste discharges to the state's waters could result from valves or other equipment failures.

The SWRCB also sent a "Year 2000 Advisory" letter in July 1998 to about 6,000 California waste dischargers. The advisory letter stated "...failure of an electronic device due to a non-Year 2000 compliant microchip will not be an excuse for any violation of waste discharge requirements or other water-quality standards or prohibitions. You should also be aware of predictions of potential litigation against companies who endanger health, safety or create financial hardships by failing to correct their non-Year 2000 compliant systems."

To get the word out to stakeholders, the SWRCB, working with several other California water agencies, hosted Year 2000 workshops during February and March. These one-day training sessions provided local agencies with essential information to prevent Y2K computer problems from adversely affecting water quality operations that may lead to potential violations.

"Clean water is essential to our survival. It behooves those responsible for wastewater treatment to do their best to identify and correct non-compliant programs and microchip processors," said Walt Pettit, Executive Director of the SWRCB. "Failure to do so could have legal consequences," he added.

The SWRCB continues to offer its website as a clearinghouse for information on the Y2K problem as it affects water quality. The web page can be found at www.swrcb.ca.gov/y2k/y2k.html.

Permit Assistance Centers

Lillian Conroe, Director
Business Revitalization Center
(213) 977-7900

Roberta James, Director
Contra Costa Regional
(925) 229-5950

Pete Ruggerello, Director
Fresno Area
(559) 498-1343

Rosemary Slabough, Director
Greater Oakland
(510) 286-6993

Vacant
Inland Empire
Ontario Office
(909) 391-0723
Riverside Office
(909) 955-1883

Pete Ruggerello, Director
Kern County
(661) 862-5175

Matt McCarron, Director
North Bay
(707) 527-2481

Danian Hopp, Director
Orange County
(714) 834-2840

Geralda Stryker, Director
San Diego Regional
(619) 236-5938

Don Johnson, Director
San Fernando Valley
(818) 756-7572

Peter Frey, Director
Santa Clara Valley
(408) 277-1477

Danian Hopp, Director
South Orange County
(949) 461-3560

Business Permits Made Simple
CalGOLD: California Government
On-Line To Desktops
<http://www.calgold.ca.gov>

Cal/EPA Ombudsman Directory

Air Resources Board
Jim Schoning
(916) 323-6791
Nancy Steele (Deputy-South)
(626) 459-4368

Department of Pesticide Regulation
Regina Sarracino (Registration)
(916) 324-3939
Kay Cummins (Licensing)
(916) 323-6133

Department of Toxic Substances Control
Southern California
John Hinton
(714) 484-5365
Northern California
Carol Northrup
(510) 540-3919

Integrated Waste Management Board
Chris Peck
(916) 255-2427

Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment
Bev Passerello
(916) 324-1945
Cynthia Oshita
Proposition 65 Implementation
(916) 445-6900

State Water Resources Control Board
Jim Bennett
(916) 657-1287

Regional Water Quality Control Boards
Craig Johnson
(707) 576-2226

Will Bruhns
Region 2 (San Francisco Bay)
(510) 286-0838
Paul Jagger
Region 3 (Central Coast)
(805) 549-3502

Jim Kuykendall
Region 4 (Los Angeles)
(323) 266-7632

Tom Pinkos
Region 5 (Central Valley)
(916) 255-3039

Bob Dodds
Region 6 (Lahontan)
(530) 542-5410

Gary Morris
Region 7 (Colorado River)
(760) 776-8926

Kurt Berchtold
Region 8 (Santa Ana)
(909) 782-3286

Mike McCann
Region 9 (San Diego)
(619) 467-2988

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Reporting an Environmental Accident/Incident

Office of Emergency Services	(916) 262-1621
(California only)	(800) 852-7550
Warning Center	(916) 262-1621
Water Pollution	1-800-952-5400
South Coast AQMD	1-800-CUT-SMOG

Reporting an Environmental Crime/Violation

Toxics	(916) 324-2448
Illegal Handling of Hazardous Waste	1-800-96-TOXIC
Sacramento	(916) 255-3618
Berkeley	(510) 540-3739
Glendale	(818) 551-2800
Cypress	(714) 484-5400
Air Pollution	(916) 322-6022
	(916) 322-6034
Complaint Hot Line	1-800-952-5588
Water Pollution	1-800-952-5400
Landfills	(916) 255-2431
Pesticides	(916) 445-3920
Smoking Vehicles	1-800-END-SMOG
Cellular (statewide)	#SMOG

CAL/EPA BOARD & DEPARTMENT WEBSITES

Cal/EPA

<http://www.calepa.ca.gov>

Air Resources Board

<http://www.arb.ca.gov>

Integrated Waste Management Board

<http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov>

Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment

<http://www.oehha.ca.gov>

Department of Pesticide Regulation

<http://www.cdpr.ca.gov>

State Water Resources Control Board

<http://www.swrcb.ca.gov>

Department of Toxic Substances Control

<http://www.dtsc.ca.gov>

CAL/EPA ENVIRONMENTAL HOTLINE

1-800-CLEANUP (Nationwide)

<http://www.1800cleanup.org>



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Secretary Hickox's Letter to Senator Burton

April 8, 1999

Honorable John Burton
Chairman, Senate Rules Committee
State Capitol, Room 500
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Senator Burton:

I appreciate the opportunity to provide you and your colleagues on the Senate Rules Committee with an outline of my short-term and long-term goals as the Secretary of the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA). Since Governor Davis extended the great honor and privilege of serving him and the people of California in this capacity just three and half months ago, I have had the pleasure of meeting with many members of both Houses, as well as numerous stakeholders in the environmental, governmental, agricultural and business communities. From this open on-going dialogue I have gained greater insight into the responsibilities vested in me and all the employees of Cal/EPA as guardians of the public health and environment. As Secretary, I am deeply committed to fulfilling these responsibilities and carrying out Governor Davis' environmental policies, which include implementing our stringent environmental quality standards resolutely but equitably.

Over the last few months, it has become clear that today's environmental issues involve increasingly complex interactions — both in the scientific sense and in the activities and choices we pursue as individuals, communities, businesses and institutions. Challenges, such as non-point source water pollution, mobile source air pollution, indoor air quality, pesticides, waste reduction and the efficient use of resources, demand new, integrated strategies and new ways of doing business. Informing and supporting the Governor in his decision to phase-out the gasoline additive methyl tertiary-butyl ether (MTBE) proved to be an invaluable lesson that I will apply to future challenges confronted by Cal/EPA.

I will also ensure our policies and decisions are based on sound science, we address the significant environmental risks affecting the Golden State's people, disparate communities, and precious natural resources, and we focus on outcomes rather than overly bureaucratic processes. With the cooperation and collaboration of the Legislature and elected officials throughout local, state, and federal government, I intend to lead Cal/EPA, building a new coalition to solve California's environmental challenges.

Cal/EPA, led by the Office of the Secretary, comprises the Air Resources Board, the Integrated Waste Management Board, the Department of Pesticide Regulation, the Department of Toxic Substances Control, the State Water Resources Control Board, nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards and the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment. Cumulatively, Cal/EPA employs approximately 4,300 scientists, engineers, lawyers, and technical and support staff. Although it is among the smaller cabinet agencies, the aggregate annual operating budget is nearly \$1 billion. Below, I have outlined the goals I plan to achieve during my tenure as Secretary of Cal/EPA. As Governor Davis' Administration formulates its policies, and as we reach out in new and better ways to the diverse constituencies we serve, I expect these goals to evolve and change — incorporating emerging ideas, strategies and policies.

SHORT-TERM GOALS**Establish the New Management Team**

To ensure that we coordinate programs, reduce conflict, and enhance our effectiveness as stewards of the environment, I am working with Governor Davis and his staff to establish a new executive management and leadership team for Cal/EPA. As the appointments process continues, we are forming a team with the talents, energy, and perspectives to guide the organization with renewed vigor and in new directions. I intend to use the appointed chairpersons and directors, who will constitute the Environmental Policy Council, as a vehicle for a more systematic, comprehensive, and multi-media policy and decision-making forum. The Council and I will set clear environmental goals for California, including preparing a single strategic plan to specify the State's priorities. The plan will also outline how to carry them out, coordinate multi-media environmental protection activities, and evaluate their success. Jointly, we will also work with our talented professional staff to establish a creative, motivated team agency-wide.

Review the Structure, Delivery and Funding of Programs

At the Governor's direction, I am initiating a comprehensive review of the structure, delivery, and funding of environmental protection programs in California. I plan to make recommendations for several statutory, regulatory or administrative changes that will serve to strengthen these programs. As part of this overall effort, I will also address the beverage container recycling program and the Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) activities.

I recognize the Legislature has also called for this review. I take your requests and the Governor's directive most seriously, and I have made this a top, early priority. Given the importance of this effort, I have been devoting considerable thought and attention on how to obtain input and ideas. At present, I have not concluded what the best approach is. I will be discussing this matter further with the interested parties in the Governor's Office and Legislature.

Formulate New Policy Directions

As my visits with you and your colleagues suggest, I am making a concerted effort to redefine the relationship between my agency and the Legislature. I have also been meeting with representatives of local and regional governments, environmental and citizens' organizations and the regulated community. Through these consultative meetings, I believe we can craft the best policies and programs for a healthier, safer environment.

In the short-term, I have reconsidered past policy initiatives, such as waste classification and corrective action, so we can ensure we define coherent policies that protect Californians and our environment. I am committed to assisting Governor Davis in developing his policies and programs in ways which not only address society's needs, such as infrastructure, but also take into consideration, and improve, our environmental quality.

Implement the Governor's MTBE Decision

On March 26, 1999, Governor Davis issued Executive Order D-5-99 to phase-out the use of MTBE in California's gasoline no later than December 31, 2001. The Executive Order also directed me to convene a task force consisting of the Air Resources Board, the State Water Resources Control Board, the Office of Health Hazard Assessment, the California Energy Commission and the Department of Health Services. This task force must implement the actions outlined in the Executive Order. My short-term goals will ensure those steps necessary to protect our air and water resources from pollution are timely and effective.

Partner with Other Agencies

Several Cabinet agencies share responsibility for protecting California's environment and the public health of its people. It is critical that these agencies communicate, collaborate closely and find workable solutions on issues of common interest and responsibility. To that end, I am working with Secretary Nichols at the Resources Agency to implement the Executive Order on MTBE; coordinate beverage container recycling activities between the Department of Conservation and the Integrated Waste Management Board; and participate with other stakeholders in the CalFED process. On issues related to permitting and compliance assistance for businesses, Secretary Hatamiya at the Trade and Commerce Agency is joining me to ensure business and economic development also builds a strong, healthy environment. Secretary Adams at State and Consumer Services Agency and I are working to improve state agency recycling efforts; incorporate green building technologies in state buildings; and improve implementation of the Smog Check II program. As champion and advocate for the environment in the Governor's Cabinet, I welcome this opportunity to work with the other secretaries to demonstrate state government can lead by example.

LONG-TERM GOALS

Enhance Enforcement and Effectiveness

I firmly believe that California's existing environmental laws must be vigorously, consistently and uniformly enforced. I will build on existing efforts to ensure enforcement coordination among Cal/EPA agencies, local regulatory entities and prosecutors. I commit Cal/EPA to develop coordinated cross-media compliance and enforcement programs. Recognizing our shared responsibility with local governments, I will also provide training for, and build capacity in, enforcement personnel at all levels. Through greater communications, cooperation, and collaboration, we will also identify and test opportunities for integrated performance-based systems, offering results superior to the "command-and-control" framework.

Develop, Implement and Report on an Annual Environmental Plan

Numerous factors influence today's environmental challenges and demonstrate a clear need for a coordinated, integrated process that sets priorities, defines strategies, and measures and reports results. I am committed to developing and implementing an annual environmental plan, which will be conducted in consultation with all stakeholders. I believe this process will substantially transform the historic debate about an inflexible, unaccountable regulatory framework. I also intend to develop this plan so that it is not merely an empty exercise, but a link with our efforts to restructure and reorient our policies and programs. As part of this objective, we will review and enhance public access to environmental information and data.

Apply the Best Available Science

Cal/EPA must apply the best available, peer-reviewed science to guide our decision-making. We will seek expert advice reviewing and improving fundamental science, not only as an organizational matter, but also as the day-to-day basis for all of our operations. Several Cal/EPA organizations have scientific panels that perform specific functions, such as the Science Advisory Boards making recommendations under Proposition 65. As Secretary, I intend to explore ways the agency can obtain independent scientific advice in every instance, and particularly on cross-media issues.

Advocate for the Environment

A significant and long-lasting effect I can have as Secretary is creating a strong advocacy role as a spokesperson for the environment. In my opinion, the Secretary of Cal/EPA must serve as the people's voice for the environment. My vision for this long-term objective is multi-faceted:

- increasing outreach and involvement of the public in the regulatory process,
- teaching children through environmental education programs,
- disseminating and obtaining better, more meaningful, and more easily accessible environmental information through electronic media, the Internet, and other conduits, and
- building regulated industries' capabilities through compliance assurance and targeted business assistance programs.

As Secretary, I will pursue all opportunities — internally among the Executive and Legislative branches and externally with all Californians — to be a strong voice for California's environment.

In closing, I appreciate this opportunity to share my initial goals with you. I look forward to a constructive, fruitful working relationship with the Legislature as we further define our shared goals of protecting and enhancing California's precious natural resources.

Sincerely,

Winston H. Hickox

Secretary for Environmental Protection